

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the official action of July 16, 2007, and the references cited therein. In the official action, claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Compaq Computer Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM Corporation, Intel corporation and Microsoft Corporation in view of Kuznetsov et al. By way of this response, the applicants have amended claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-13, 15-17, 21-24, 26, 27, 31, and 32. No new matter has been added. The applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit a favorable notification to that effect.

The applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Independent claim 1 is directed to a method and recites, *inter alia*, assigning each of a plurality of descriptors to a respective one of a plurality of memory ranges during a pre-boot environment, wherein each of the descriptors is indicative of a protection policy for its one of the memory ranges. It is respectfully submitted that the applied references do not describe or suggest assigning each of a plurality of descriptors to a respective one of a plurality of memory ranges during a pre-boot environment, wherein each of the descriptors is indicative of a protection policy for its one of the memory ranges nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the art of record to describe each and every element of claim 1. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

The applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 11, 21, and 31 and all claims depending thereon are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

PATENT
Atty. Docket No. 20002/17852

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2455. If there are any remaining matters that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

HANLEY, FLIGHT & ZIMMERMAN, LLC
Suite 2100
150 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 580-1020

Dated: **November 16, 2007**

By: Mark C. Zimmerman/
Mark C. Zimmerman
Registration No. 44,006
Attorney for Applicants